TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 6, 2002 LB 82

number of ways through proper education, through licensing, through disciplinary procedures. And almost all of our counsel are competent, but we have to make the assumption that they are. Otherwise, what we start doing is putting in one advisement after another on each and every legal...important legal point that counsel may miss in terms of informing his client, until we have done a couple of things that are very adverse. advisement only takes three or five seconds, they say, but it has to be given across the state in every court in every case...in every criminal case, whether or not the person is a noncitizen, and of course they're going to be a noncitizen in a very, very small percentage of the cases, but still they have to give this advisement. So it's burdensome and seeks to do something that...that we cannot do. We cannot substitute recitation of the entire law of the case to the defendant by the court when the analysis of the law and the recitation of the law to the defendant is the job of counsel. It...it doesn't make sense for us to go in this direction, to me. A second very, very important problem, I think, that ...that derives from some of these process requirements that we put in place is simply this. If a defendant, for example, had counsel and the judge was distracted and for some reason failed to give advisement to this client who is standing there with counsel, and counsel may know about the advisement, the counsel may, in fact, have advised his client with regard to the possibility of being deported, but in that situation, if the judge fails to give the advisement they can overturn the plea. And, Senator Synowiecki, in that sense, they overcome the outcome of the case, at least temporarily. And then it would require, if the evidence is still there, if when this is done it's still fresh, then it would require a whole new proceeding and you go from there. But when the public sees that, for reasons of process, somebody who is standing there with an attorney got off, and maybe they get off on a serious felony case, these are the kinds of cases that really upset the public and undermine the credibility of the system. I'm simply suggesting, with this amendment, that you treat this potential problem and this defendant basically the same way that we treat all other defendants, and that is, if they have counsel they have to rely upon counsel for the broad variety of advisements that a defendant should get.